

Technology in Rural Transportation

A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:



Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Information Data Clearinghouse

Overall goal: To serve as the statewide information collection and dissemination resource.

Technical approach: The Arizona Statewide Freeway Management System (FMS) is housed in the Phoenix TOC. The FMS serves as a data information clearinghouse for metropolitan jurisdictions and for agencies throughout the State via “virtual TOC’s”. The FMS collects information from mainline detection, ramp metering, CCTV monitoring, traffic interchange signals, a drainage monitoring system, VMS and a communications system. Jurisdictions are able to communicate among themselves on this statewide system, sharing information that assists in event, incident, congestion, and other traffic management scenarios. The FMS encompasses the following components: a simulcast radio system; the I-10 deck tunnel monitoring system including lighting, fans, fire detection and cameras, and elk alert sign control. The FMS is controlled by a network of computer systems and communications systems located at the TOC where a team of operators staff a control room 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are in constant contact with responsible rescue and response agencies and state highway maintenance and construction forces statewide in order to provide motorists with safe and efficient driving conditions.

Current status: The Arizona FMS maintains ongoing operations, with phased implementation of added field devices throughout the State continually occurring.

Location / geographic: The web page (<http://www.azfms.com>) provides general information and can be accessed worldwide.



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scope:

Agencies involved:

ADOT and the FHWA

Cost information:

\$1.3 million annually to handle all operations.

Key contacts:

Tim Wolfe, Assistant State Engineer, (602) 255-6622, tim@azfms.com; or Glenn Jonas, Senior Systems Engineer, (602) 255-6587, glenn@azfms.com

Have goals been achieved?

Yes. With the extensive computer network purchased for the FMS, ADOT has the capability of bringing more systems into the TOC at very little cost. Systems throughout the State can be controlled directly from the TOC, and the network has the potential to be utilized by other agencies to simply collect and disseminate data to users at remote locations.

Solution timeline:

Project is deployed. The Arizona FMS is operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

